

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 070224

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/CE:NCLEDSKY:SK

APPROVED BY: EUR-MR HARTMAN

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O 090222Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 070224

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 070224 ACTION ACAPULCO 06 APR

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 070224

EXDIS, TOSEC 155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, MX, WB, FR, UR, GW, UK

SUBJECT: WESTERN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS ON BERLIN

FOR SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

1. I REQUEST YOUR APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO BE SENT THIS WEEKEND TO AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND IN BONN. IT SEEMS TO ME IMPORTANT THAT ALL FOUR WESTERN POWERS FOLLOW THE SAME LINE IN DISCUSSING BERLIN WITH GROMYKO, AND THAT WE TAKE THE LEAD IN ARRANGING THE DESIRED CONSULTATIONS AND THE COORDINATION OF AN AGREED POSITION. THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR DRAFTING A SET OF TALKING POINTS ON A QUADRI-PARTITE BASIS TO SERVE AS A NON-BINDING GUIDE TO EACH FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICER, WHO CLAIMED HE WAS UNDER NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION FROM THE QUAL, CALLED AT DE-SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 070224

PARTMENT APRIL 3 IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFOR-

MATION ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION IN MOSCOW WITH GROMYKO ON BERLIN ISSUES. THE FRENCH OFFICER CONFIDED THAT PARIS HAD GAINED IMPRESSION, IN LIGHT OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO DATE, THAT THE US IN CONCERT WITH THE FRG MAY HAVE CONVEYED SOMETHING BILATERALLY TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT BERLIN THAT WAS PROPERLY A QUADRIPARTITE MATTER.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID THAT WHILE THE SECRETARY HAD OF COURSE REVIEWED MATTER WITH FONMIN SCHEEL MARCH 24, HE HAD ADHERED CLOSELY WHEN HE SAW GROMYKO TO POSITION FAMILIAR TO THE THREE POWERS AND FRG AND HAD BROKEN NO NEW GROUND IN TALKING ABOUT THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY AND FUTURE FRG ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN, INDICATING ONLY THAT ALLIES WERE FULLY COMPETENT AND WILLING HANDLE FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN WAY WHICH WOULD DEAL ADEQUATELY WITH LEGITIMATE SOVIET CONCERNS.

4. THE FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THAT HOWEVER THIS CONVERSATION HAD GONE, ONE SHOULD LOOK FORWARD AND NOT BACKWARD. THE ISSUE NOW WAS TO INSURE THAT THE WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS TAKE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME LINE IN SPEAKING TO GROMYKO NEXT WEEK IN NEW YORK. THE SECRETARY AND GROMYKO WOULD APPARENTLY BE PURSUING THE SUBJECT OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY. THERE WAS ALSO A CHANCE THAT JOBERT AND PERHAPS OTHER WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE SEEING GROMYKO. ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH OFFICER SAID AGAIN THAT HE WAS UNDER NO INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE FOUR WESTERN POWERS AGREE IN ADVANCE ON WHAT SHOULD BE SAID AND EXCHANGE VIEWS IN SOME DETAIL ABOUT THE RESULT OF EACH BILATERAL CONVERSATION. DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER, WITHOUT COMMITMENT, AGREED TO FORWARD THIS SUGGESTION TO HIS SUPERIORS.

5. FROM POSITIONS THE FRENCH HAVE ADOPTED IN THE BONN GROUP AND ELSEWHERE, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT PARIS WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO WHAT WE HAVE TOLD THE SOVIETS ON BERLIN, BUT AS A MATTER OF FORM WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A SIMILAR PRESENTATION THEMSELVES, OR AT LEAST TO VERIFY THAT THREE ALLIES STAND TOGETHER ON BERLIN. FOR THIS REASON, IT MAY BE TACTICALLY WISE FOR THE US TO TAKE  
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PAGE 03 STATE 070224

THE LEAD IN SUGGESTING IN THE BONN GROUP THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BRIEFING PAPER FROM WHICH EACH FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE FREE TO DRAW WHEN TALKING TO GROMYKO NEXT WEEK. THE US REP, AFTER CONSULTING GERMANS ON KEY POINTS TO BE MADE, IS THUS AUTHORIZED TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN THE BONN GROUP AND SUGGEST THAT A COMMON BRIEFING PAPER BE DEVELOPED AND FORWARDED TO CAPITALS BY APRIL 9." END TEXT. RUSH  
UNQUOTE RUSH

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